

Application No. 10/749,761
Response dated May 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

Recitation of the Claims:

This listing of claims represents the claims as filed in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1. (original) A disposable garment, the disposable garment comprising:

an outer layer;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter;

wherein the elastic inner layer includes a front piece, a back piece and a crotch piece, wherein the crotch piece is attached to the front piece and the back piece and wherein the front piece and the back piece are elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable garment, and wherein the crotch piece is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable garment;

wherein the crotch piece defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter; and

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer.

2. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.

3. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is extensible.

4. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is elastic.

5. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.

Application No. 10/749,761

Response dated May 20, 2005

Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

6. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.
7. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.
8. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.
9. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.
10. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment.
11. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.
12. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the crotch piece is extensible in a lateral direction of the disposable garment.
13. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

Application No. 10/749,761

Response dated May 20, 2005

Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

14. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

15. (original) The disposable garment of claim 1, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

16. (original) A disposable garment, the disposable garment having a longitudinal direction and a lateral direction, the disposable garment comprising:

an outer layer, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter, and wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter, and wherein the elastic inner layer includes a front piece, a back piece and a crotch piece, wherein the crotch piece is attached to the front piece and the back piece and wherein the front piece and the back piece are elastic in the lateral direction, and wherein the crotch piece is elastic in the longitudinal direction and extensible in the lateral direction;

wherein the crotch piece defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter with a plurality of ultrasonic bonds; and

wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 20 to 40.

Application No. 10/749,761

Response dated May 20, 2005

Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

17. (original) A disposable garment, the disposable garment comprising:

a stretchable outer layer;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter;

wherein the elastic inner layer includes a front piece, a back piece and a crotch piece, wherein the crotch piece is attached to the front piece and the back piece and wherein the front piece and the back piece are elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable garment and the crotch piece is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable garment;

wherein the crotch piece defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the stretchable outer layer; and wherein the crotch piece has a crotch piece retraction value and the stretchable outer layer has a stretchable outer layer retraction value that is less than the crotch piece retraction value.

18. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the stretchable outer layer has a stretchable outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the stretchable outer layer perimeter.

19. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the stretchable outer layer is extensible.

20. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the stretchable outer layer is elastic.

Application No. 10/749,761
Response dated May 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

21. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the stretchable outer layer is liquid impermeable.
22. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the stretchable outer layer is liquid permeable.
23. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.
24. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.
25. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable garment.
26. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.
27. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the crotch piece is extensible in a lateral direction of the disposable garment.
28. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.

Application No. 10/749,761
Response dated May 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

29. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.

30. (original) The disposable garment of claim 17, wherein the disposable garment has a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.

31. (original) A disposable absorbent garment, the disposable absorbent garment comprising:

an outer layer;

an elastic inner layer, wherein the elastic inner layer has an elastic inner layer perimeter;

wherein the elastic inner layer includes a front piece, a back piece and a crotch piece, wherein the crotch piece is attached to the front piece and the back piece and wherein the front piece and the back piece are elastic in a lateral direction of the disposable absorbent garment and the crotch piece is elastic in a longitudinal direction of the disposable absorbent garment;

wherein the crotch piece defines an opening located in an internal position to the elastic inner layer perimeter;

wherein the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer; and

an absorbent assembly positioned between the outer layer and the elastic inner layer, wherein the absorbent assembly includes a topsheet layer, a core layer and a barrier layer.

Application No. 10/749,761

Response dated May 20, 2005

Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

32. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the outer layer has an outer layer perimeter and the elastic inner layer perimeter is bonded to the outer layer perimeter.

33. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the outer layer is extensible.

34. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the outer layer is elastic.

35. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the outer layer is liquid impermeable.

36. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the outer layer is liquid permeable.

37. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the outer layer has one or more pleats.

38. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the elastic inner layer is liquid impermeable.

39. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the elastic inner layer includes two or more layers of materials.

Application No. 10/749,761
Response dated May 20, 2005
Reply to Office Action of February 22, 2005

40. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the opening has a length of from 10% to 80% of a total length of the disposable absorbent garment.
41. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer with a plurality of ultrasonic, adhesive or thermal bonds.
42. (original) The disposable garment of claim 31, wherein the crotch piece is extensible in a lateral direction of the disposable garment.
43. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the outer layer has a length in the longitudinal direction, the elastic inner layer has a length in the longitudinal direction and the outer layer length is greater than the elastic inner layer length.
44. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the outer layer has a width in the lateral direction, the elastic inner layer has a width in the lateral direction and the outer layer width is greater than the elastic inner layer width.
45. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the disposable absorbent garment has a longitudinal side edge that includes a perimeter bonded area where the elastic inner layer is bonded to the outer layer, wherein the perimeter bonded area has a percentage of bonded area to unbonded area of from 10 to 40.
46. (original) The disposable absorbent garment of claim 31, wherein the absorbent assembly is attached to the outer layer along a lateral centerline of the absorbent assembly.

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